

5 Tips For Responding To Homophobic Comments in Youth—Centered Environments

1. Let the offender know why his/her language is offensive to YOU.
2. Refer to school or agency rules against bullying and harassment.
3. Call the person's attention to the meaning of his/her words – s/he may have used the slur without realizing its effect.
4. Support the victim in way that allows him/her to regain control and feel safe from retaliation.
5. Be clear about the consequences of using derogatory language – and follow through.

This card was developed by **The GLBT Youth Support Project (GLYS)**,
a program of **HCSM, Inc.** www.hcsm.org/glys.htm ▼ (800) 530-2770 x229

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5 Reasons To Respond to Homophobic Comments

1. Your response establishes YOU as a person who will not accept anti-gay or any other form of bullying or harassment.
2. You create safety for the person who is being targeted and for everyone else in your school or agency.
3. You have a chance to remind the bully that respect for others is a core value of your school or agency.
4. You can prevent the bullying from escalating to physical violence.
5. You serve as a role model for supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

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